

What is claim is:

1. A method for the sterilization of a labile glucocorticosteroid, comprising the step of applying moist heat to a suspension of a labile glucocorticosteroid for a sterilizing-effective time.
2. A method for the sterilization of a glucocorticosteroid, comprising the step of heating an aqueous suspension of a glucocorticosteroid, wherein the glucocorticosteroid has a sufficiently low solubility in water and is used in a sufficient amount that at least 50% of the glucocorticosteroid is in the form of a suspension during heating.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein at least 60% of the glucocorticosteroid is in the form of a suspension during heating.
4. The method of any preceding claim, wherein heating is at a temperature of from about 101°C to about 145°C.
5. The method of any preceding claim, wherein heating is carried out by autoclaving.
6. The method of any preceding claim, wherein heating is carried out for about 2 to about 180 minutes.
7. The method of any preceding claim, wherein the suspension further comprises a surfactant.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the surfactant is present at a concentration of from about 0.75 mg/ml to about 60 mg/ml.
9. The method of any preceding claim, wherein the glucocorticosteroid is budesonide or beclomethasone dipropionate.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the glucocorticosteroid is budesonide, and the heating is carried out at 121°C for about 20–30 minutes or at 110°C for about 120 minutes.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the glucocorticosteroid is beclomethasone dipropionate, and the heating carried out at 121°C for about 20–30 minutes or at 110°C for about 120 minutes.
12. The method of any preceding claim, wherein the glucocorticosteroid is at a concentration of from about 15 mg/ml to about 150 mg/ml.

13. A method for the sterilization of budesonide, comprising the step of heating an aqueous suspension of budesonide at a concentration of from about 15 mg/ml to about 150 mg/ml at a temperature of from about 101°C to about 145°C for about 2 to about 180 minutes.
14. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising the step of diluting the suspension to a pharmaceutically suitable concentration.
15. A composition obtainable by the method of any preceding claim.
16. A sterile aqueous suspension comprising a glucocorticosteroid obtained by the method of any of claims 1 to 14, wherein the particle size of the glucocorticosteroid is such that the Dv100 is less than 20 µm, the Dv90 is less than 10 µm and the Dv50 is less than 5 µm.
17. A sterile aqueous budesonide suspension obtained by the method of any of claims 1 to 14, wherein the suspension comprises less than 0.2% by weight of 1,2-dihydro budesonide based on the amount of budesonide.